



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

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June 30, 1997

Baldwin Park Operable Unit Steering Committee
c/o Donald E. Vanderkar, Co-Chair
Aerojet General Corporation
Box 13222
Sacramento, CA 95813

Dear Mr. Vanderkar:

On May 15, 1997, EPA sent Special Notice letters to nineteen Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs) for the Baldwin Park Operable Unit requesting submittal of a Good Faith Offer by mid-July. We have considered the request made by David Gianotti in his June 19, 1997 letter, in which Mr. Gianotti asks that EPA extend the deadline for submittal of a Good Faith Offer for 60 days in response to the discovery of elevated levels of perchlorate in groundwater in the Baldwin Park area.

EPA is very concerned about the discovery of perchlorate in the Baldwin Park Operable Unit (BPOU). These findings make it all the more important that the parties negotiate a Consent Decree for the BPOU cleanup as soon as practicable. The Steering Committee should understand that EPA seeks to minimize delays to the schedule for negotiating a settlement and performing the Remedial Design and Remedial Action.

To facilitate settlement, EPA agrees to an extension in the deadline for submittal of a Good Faith Offer until August 29, 1997, to allow time for analysis of groundwater samples collected from the Baldwin Park area multiport wells, and preparation of a report evaluating perchlorate treatment processes. This brief delay will provide the Steering Committee with time to evaluate the impacts of perchlorate on the Steering Committee's water distribution plans and on costs. The June 16, 1997 memo prepared by Harding Lawson Associates on behalf of the Steering Committee indicates that perchlorate sampling results will be available by about June 30 (assuming a 5 day turnaround time for laboratory analysis). We look forward to receiving the perchlorate treatment evaluation no later than July 11, 1997 and propose a meeting approximately 10 days later.

Most likely, additional studies of perchlorate removal technologies will be necessary after submission of the July 11 report, and will require significantly longer than 30 days to complete. After receipt of the perchlorate treatment evaluation, EPA will determine whether any portion of the additional studies are best completed before submittal of a Good Faith Offer. Prerequisites to any further extension in the deadline for a Good Faith Offer will include, at a

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minimum, prompt agreement between EPA and the Steering Committee on a detailed workplan and schedule, strict adherence to the schedule, and assurances that related activities such as cost allocation proceed on schedule. Please contact Wayne Praskins of my staff at (415) 744-2256 or Lewis Maldonado of our Office of Regional Counsel at (415) 744-1342 if you would like to discuss these matters further.

Sincerely,



John Kemmerer, Acting Chief
Superfund Site Cleanup Branch

cc: Robert Klotz, U.S. Department of Justice
Jacalyn Spizman, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Hank Yacoub, California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Kirby Brill, San Gabriel Basin Water Quality Authority
Carol Williams, Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster
Rick Hansen, Three Valleys Municipal Water District
Ed Thornhill, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California